

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/617,721

Examiner

Ronald D Hartman Jr.

Applicant(s)

LAVAL ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communications filed on 4/21/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12, 14-148, 150-155, 157-192 and 194-216 (renumbered as 1-212).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) • | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), •
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/21/2004</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/21/2004</u> • | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12, 14-148, 150-155, 157-192 and 194-216 are presented.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles Berman on September 28, 2004.

The applicant has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 27-28, delete lines 11-12 and replace with -- wherein informational material is correlated to the location where a printed pass was printed and the time assigned; and –

Claims 213-214; line 10, change "fro" to "for".

Claims 209 and 213-14, insert "computer implemented" in between the words "A" and "method" in line 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. As per claims 1-2, specifically independent claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or adequately disclose a system for managing admission to an attraction comprising:

- a first validator (hereinafter: "FV") for establishing an entitlement of a customer to access the attraction;

Art Unit: 2121

- a controller (hereinafter: "C") for generating an assigned time (hereinafter: "AT") at which the customer may access the attraction, the assigned time comprising a next available time, as determined by an algorithm performed by the system; and
- a second validator (hereinafter: "SV") for permitting the customer to access the attraction at the "AT", in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed by the claimed invention.

As per claims 3-6 and 14-16, specifically independent claim 3, the prior art of record fails to teach or adequately suggest a system for managing admission to an attraction comprising:

- a first queue (hereinafter: "FQ") by which customers may access the attraction by waiting in line;
- a second queue (hereinafter: "SQ") by which customers may access the attraction in a manner which avoids the "FQ";
- a "FV" for establishing an entitlement of a customer to access a "SQ"; and
- generating an "AT" in the future at which an entitled customer may access the attraction via the "SQ", in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed by the claimed invention.

As per claims 7-12, specifically independent claim 7, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 7 also adds a feature wherein the "FV" is arranged to validate at least one type of identifying information from the group consisting of: magnetic strip, bar code, radio-frequency, iris, fingerprint, retina, voice, thermal, finger or hand geometry, and visual identification, which further distinguishes claim 7 from the prior art or record.

As per claim 17, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 17 also adds a feature wherein a media distributor (hereinafter: "MD") is used for distributing admission media to

Art Unit: 2121

customers entitled to access the attraction, the admission media including printed material thereon and the information being generated specifically for the customer based upon an identification of the customer, which further distinguishes claim 17 from the prior art of record.

As per claim 18, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 18 also adds a feature wherein a media distributor (hereinafter: "MD") is used for distributing admission media to customers entitled to access the attraction, the admission media including printed material thereon and the information being generated to influence pedestrian traffic patterns, which further distinguishes claim 18 from the prior art of record.

As per claims 19-26, specifically independent claim 19, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 19 also adds a feature wherein an admission pass is distributed to entitled customers the admission media including printed material thereon and the information being generated to influence pedestrian traffic patterns, which further distinguishes claim 19 from the prior art of record.

As per claim 27, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 27 also adds a feature wherein a printed pass is issued, wherein information material relating to the printed pass is correlated to the location where the printed pass was printed and the time assigned, which further distinguishes claim 19 from the prior art of record.

As per claims 29 and 37-38, specifically independent claim 29, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 29 also adds a feature wherein an admission pass is generated and issued to customers entitled to access the attraction, wherein times issued are issued on a first come first serve basis, which further distinguishes claim 19 from the prior art of record.

As per claims 30-36, specifically independent claim 30, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein.

As per claims 39 and 47-48, specifically independent claim 39, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein and it is further noted that claim 39 also sets forth the feature that media which is issued has assigned times which are based on a determination of a next available time, which further distinguishes claim 19 from the prior art of record.

As per claims 40-46, specifically independent claim 40, the reasons for allowance, as set forth above with respect to claim 3 above.

As per claims 49-148, 150-155, 157-192 and 194-208, specifically independent claims 49-50, 59-60, 69, 78-79, 89, 99, 109-110, 121-122, 133-134, 145, 152, 159, 169-170, 180-181, 192, 202, 207 and 215, the reasons for allowance, as set forth in claim 3 above, is equally applied herein.

As per claims 209-214, specifically independent claims 209 and 213-214, the prior art of record fails to teach a method of managing admission to an attraction comprising the features and or limitations as claimed by claim 3, in addition, these claims also present a feature whereby admission is denied to a customer upon the determination that the customer has an outstanding time already assigned, in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed by the claimed invention.


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is 703-308-7001, and after October 12, 2004, (571) 272 - 3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 11:30 am - 8:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179, and starting October 12, 2004, at (571) 272 - 3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald D Hartman Jr.
Examiner
Art Unit 2121



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600